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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Daniel Howard Lann
Application #: 10/694,515
Filed: 10/27/2003
For: **Grill Rack Cleaning Device and Method**

Group Art Unit: 1744
Examiner: Balsis, Shay L.

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

Reply to Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, the applicant makes provisional election of claims 1-15 for examination. The applicant also requests reconsideration and withdraw of the restriction requirement as set forth in the following.

The office action rendered apparatus set forth in claims 1-15 distinct from the processes set forth in claims 16-17 by showing that the apparatus could be used without sliding, or the apparatus could be positioned on the metal rods without the use of pressure. The office action did not provide a *prima facie* showing how a cleaning process using the apparatus could be achieved without the action of "sliding". Regarding applying pressure to insert the metal rods into the clip members, each of the metal rods enters the interior of a clip member through the longitudinal opening. Even if the cross section of a clip member were made slightly larger than the metal rods, an applied pressure would still be needed when the longitudinal opening of a clip member is narrower than the width of one of the metal rods. Furthermore, the "elastically deflectable" feature of the clip member set forth in claims 1-15 establishes the means for

insertion of metal rods into the interior of the clip member by the action of applying pressure. In view of MPEP § 803, paragraph 2, "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.", the applicant also wishes to point out that claims 16-17 share the key features of claims 1-15 even though they are directed to different statutory classes. Therefore, the applicant respectfully request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,


August 30, 2005



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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE by US mail on August 30, 2005


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